

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 281203Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8209

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 1174

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SU

SUBJ: NIMEIRI OPENS PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

1. IN MAJOR SPEECH IN CONNECTION FIFTH ANNIVERSARY MAY 1969 REVOLUTION, PRESIDENT NIMEIRI OPENED SECOND PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AFTERNOON OF MAY 24. BESIDES WELCOMING AND EXHORTING NEW ASSEMBLY, SPEECH ABOUT EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN OUTLINE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ON DEVELOPMENT EFFORT AND ON MEETING IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC NEEDS OF PEOPLE. RE EXTERNAL RELATIONS FOCUS WAS COMBINATION OF PRAISE FOR EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA WITH BITING ATTACK (THOUGH QADHAFI NOT NAMED) ON "POLITICAL BUFFOONS SERMONIZING TO THOSE WHO HAVE GONE TO WAR". NIMEIRI STATED HIS DESIRE FOR "GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS WITH ALL AND NONINTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHERS". LOUD APPLAUSE GREETED HIS ASSERTION THAT ANY ATTEMPT "INFILTRATE AGENTS AND SABOTEURS INTO OUR TERRITORY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED".

2. RE DEVELOPMENT, NIMEIR CLAIMED \$200 MILLION PROVIDED UNDER SAUDI GUARANTEE HAD BEEN PARLAYED INTO PROJECTS TOTALING \$3 BILLION (PRINTED SPEECH USED FIGURE \$300 MILLION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT NIMEIR MENTIONED HIGHER AMOUNT AND HIS ECONOMIC RIGHT-

HAND, MINSTATE DR. BAH AL-DIN IDRIS CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR THAT \$3 BILLION WAS INTENDED). HE LISTED SOME TEN PROJECTS WHICH HE CLAIMED WOULD BE EMBARKED UPON IN SIXTH YEAR OF REVOLUTION. LIST CONTAINED NOTHING NEW WITH PROJECTS VARYING FROM REAL AND IMMEDIATE POSSIBILITIES TO THOSE PROBABLY ONLY DISTANT DREAMS. MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, IN OBVIOUS EFFORT DEAL WITH ECONOMIC CONCERNS OF ORDINARY CITIZENS AND ORGANIZED LABOR, NIMEIRI OUTLINED SERIES OF ACTIONS AND PROMISES OF ACTION AFFECTING WAGES, WORKING CONDITIONS AND COST OF LIVING. MOST IMPORTANT WAS WAGE INCREASE FOR GOVERNMENT WORKERS OF 17 PERCENT FOR LOWER SALARIED GROUPS AND 12 PERCENT FOR HIGHER CATEGORIES. PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES WILL RECEIVE INCREASES ONLY SLIGHTLY LOWER, RETROACTIVE TO JULY 73, WHILE STUDY IS TO BE CONDUCTED TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM WAGE IN PRIVATE SECTOR. LAST BUT BY NO MEANS LEAST, NIMEIRI PROMISED AND ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE "FORTHWITH" OF "IMPROVED TERMS OF SERVICE" FOR ARMY AND SECURITY FORCES.

3. COMMENT: WHILE NIMEIRI ACKNOWLEDGED PROBLEMS FACING PEOPLE AND ASKED FOR PATIENCE UNTIL FRUITS PROMISED DEVELOPMENT COULD BE FELT BY ALL, BREAD AND BUTTER CONCESSIONS OFFERED TO PEOPLE INDICATE THAT REGIME KNOWS FULL WELL SUCH PATIENCE LIMITED. QUESTION IN SHORT RUN IS HOW THESE NEW BENEFITS TO BE FINANCED.
BREWER

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